GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4004
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
IRRIGATION FACILITIES TO FARMERS IN GUJARAT
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of poor irrigation facilities for the farmers of dry areas in Gujarat i.e. Kutch, Saurashtra and North Gujarat as the ground water level has gone alarmingly low;

(b) if so, the action proposed by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to supply Narmada Water to Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the same is likely to be done?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB),under the Ministry of Water Resources regularly monitors the ground water level at various parts of the country including the state of Gujarat through a network of National Hydrograph Monitoring Stations. Analysis of data collected by the CGWB hasindicated fall in the level of ground water and consequential irrigation problem in various parts of Gujarat, including those in North Gujarat, Kutch and Saurashtra.

(b) Water being a state subject, action to augment the ground water resources and creation of irrigation facilities is taken by the concerned State Governments. Accordingly, Government of Gujarat is implementing major, medium and minor irrigation schemes for development of irrigation facilities in the State. Out of these projects, 17 ongoing and 14 new major/medium irrigation projects are to provide benefit to the water scarce/drought prone districts including other districts of Gujarat. Inorder to complete long pending major and medium irrigation projects in the country and to get early benefits from the locked up investments, the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) waslaunched by the Government of India in 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governments. Under this programme, Rs. 2166.85 crore has been provided for 14 major/medium projects in Gujarat including the Sardar Sarovar project upto November 2000. In addition, the CGWB has undertaken exploratorydrilling in Gujarat besides construction of tube wells in Kutch district of Gujarat. All the successful exploratory wells of CGWB are being offered/handed overto the State Government. Out of 404 successful wells, 125 wells have already been handed over to the State Government for theiruse upto September 2002. In addition, 240 wells have also been offered to Government of Gujarat, which are yet to be accepted by them. A Central Sector Scheme "Study of Recharge to Ground Water" was also implemented in the country during the Ninth Plan. Under this scheme, the CGWB had approved threeprojects for artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rainwater harvesting in the state of Gujarat in the last three years. The proposal to continue this Scheme for artificial recharge inthe Tenth Plan is at consultation stage.

(c) & (d) The Sardar Sarovar Project is under constructionand after completion it will provide Narmada water to the State of Gujarat. About 17.92 lakh hectare irrigation potential can be created through Narmada main canal that will provide benefit to 12 districts of Gujarat including Kutch among 9 other drought prone districts of Gujarat. The canal project will be completed in two phases. Phase-I of the canal is nearing completion and about 1 lakh hectare irrigation potential will be created in Gujarat on completion of the canal Phase-I (Gujaratportion). Under the Fast Track Programme of AIBP, 100% loanassistance amounting to Rs. 94 crore has been additionally provided to Gujarat for Narmada main canal Phase-I (Gujarat portion) for completion of the canal in one year's time.